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# FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August 16, 1946

No. 176

FACTS ABOUT THE FAO CONFERENCE. . . . Included with the Calendar this week is a copy of a fact sheet on the FAO Copenhagen Conference beginning September 2. It is being distributed by the Department to furnish basic information on the Conference and this country's interest in FAO. Read it as a background for other Conference materials that will be made available to you from time to time.

FARMERS' HOME ADMINISTRATION. . . . On August 14, President Truman signed the Cooley farm credit bill, the main purpose of which is to give one agency the power to make direct loans to farmers who cannot get credit anywhere else. The act abolishes Farm Security Administration and creates the Farmers' Home Administration under the direct authority of the Secretary of Agriculture. Most of FSA's functions will be continued by FHA on a permanent basis and some new functions will be added.

The Farmers' Home Administration Act repeals the act that authorized Farm Credit Administration to make emergency crop production, seed, feed, and harvesting loans; FHA will collect and liquidate such loans, also rural rehabilitation loans, made under prior authority. In place of these two types of loans and by amendment to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make production and subsistence loans at 5 percent interest to farmers and stockmen who cannot secure credit elsewhere for the purchase of livestock, seed, feed, fertilizer, farm equipment, refinancing indebtedness, other farm needs and for family subsistence. The act provides that such loans will not be in competition with cooperative or private credit. The interest rate for tenant purchase loans is raised from 3 (under FSA) to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent. The act authorizes farm enlargement and farm development loans and loans to disabled veterans. It gives veterans preference in the disposition of project property.

A program of insured farm mortgages is established comparable to the insured mortgages on urban real estate now administered by Federal Housing Administration except that Farmers' Home Administration will service these insured mortgages. In signing the bill President Truman expressed the hope that Congress would speedily repeal one section of the act--that requiring conveyance by the U. S. of all mineral rights in connection with lands conveyed under the authority of the act.

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SCHOOL LUNCH NEWS. . . . Twenty-six States and Hawaii have so far signed agreements to take advantage of Federal funds for the school lunch program. They are: Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., Ill., Kans., Ky., La., Md., Mich., Minn., Miss., Mont., N. J., N. Y., N. C., Okla., R.I., S.C., S. Dak., Tenn., Tex., Utah., W. Va., Wis., Wyo.

The remaining States are expected to make every effort to sign agreements before the opening of the fall school term.

MORE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH. . . . The Flannagan-Hope bill approved by President Truman on August 14 provides additional authorizations for research and authorizes appropriations for marketing research and service, with permission to work through the States. Listed below are the additional authorizations provided, by years and purposes allotted:

<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Amounts by years and million dollars</u>				
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Payments to States, Puerto Rico and territories for research. . . . .	2½	5	10	15	20*
To USDA for utilization research with authority to contract with private agencies. . . . .	3	6	9	12	15*
Cooperative research with State experiment stations and other agencies, USDA not to use more than 3% for administrative expenses . . . . .	1½	3	4½	6	**
To USDA for marketing research and service with permission to work through States. . . . .	2½	5	10	15	20*

\* After 1951, such additional funds as Congress may deem necessary.

\*\* After 1950, (same as above).

The amounts for States, etc., (first item) must be distributed as follows: 20% equally to each State, etc., at least 26 percent on basis of rural population, and 26 percent on farm population; not over 25 percent for regional problems; 3 percent for administrative expenses.

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OUR HORN OF PLENTY. . . . As a whole estimates for crop production this year were revised upward in the August 1 Crop Report, bringing the 1946 record 3 points above the previous high mark set in 1942 and 6 points above 1945. We are reminded, however, that the American production record is only one hopeful picture in the postwar world. World food needs, foreign commitments, and small carry-over of various foods call for wisest use of our bounty.

Most important contributions to the 1946 crop are: the record crops of corn, wheat tobacco, peaches, plums and truck crops; near-record crops of oats, rice peanuts, potatoes, pears, grapes, cherries, and sugarcane; and average or better crops of hay, soybeans, dry peas, prunes, beans, apricots, and sugar beets. For both the food grain and feed grain groups, the aggregate production is the largest in history; our reduced animal population should be able to eat better than ever before.

Crops that will fall below average this year include sorghum grain, flaxseed, buckwheat, dry beans, sweetpotatoes, pecans, cotton, and rye. The large crops of soybeans and peanuts will not offset the smaller flaxseed crop, leaving oil crops very much on the deficit side.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . August 7, the President approved bills to: discontinue forest roads and trails, large AAA payments, and condition of work reports, and a bill to extend RFC. August 8, the President approved bills to: (1) provide annuities for separated employees at least 55 of age after 25 years of service, (2) authorize health programs for Federal employees, (3) permit BAE crop reports to be issued on Monday when the due date falls on Sat., (4) appropriate funds for OPA, Economic Advisers, Price Decontrol Board, Stockpiling, etc., (5) provide regulations for veterans' training. August 9, the President approved a bill to authorize appropriations to continue the farm-labor supply program until June 30, 1947.

August 13, the President approved a bill to provide Federal grants to States for hospitals and public health centers. August 14, the President approved the Flannagan-Hope research-marketing bill and a bill to create Farmers' Home Administration to replace Farm Security Administration; the President pocket-vetoed a bill to provide basic authority for certain Bureau of reclamation functions (would have given Bureau of Reclamation authority for land levelling and soil preparation).

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FOOD SURVEY BEFORE FAO CONFERENCE. . . . Last week a group of six men, four of them from USDA, left for Europe to make a food survey of that continent before the FAO Conference in Copenhagen beginning September 2. They are: Under Secretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd, Gordon P. Boals, head of OFAR's Grain and Feed Division; PMA Administrator Robert Shields; Keith Himsbaugh, USDA Director of Information; Lt. Col. Stanley Andrews of the War Department; and W. C. McNamara, Commissioner, Canadian Wheat Board. The survey group will cover as much of Europe as possible to obtain first-hand information on the general food and agriculture situation and particularly on the need for U. S. supplies for the 1946-47 season. Official announcement of the United States delegation to the FAO Conference is expected momentarily.

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RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . House Ants, Leaflet No. 147, 8 pages; Collection and Preservation of Insects, Misc. Pub. No. 601, 42 p.

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RADIO SCHEDULE, AUGUST 24. . . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, "Department of Agriculture Headlines," and discussion on importance of saving fat, by Duke DuMars of the Office of the Secretary and Lucile Holmes of USDA's Radio Service.

CONSUMER TIME, NBC, "The Story of Market News," interview with USDA's market news reporter from Los Angeles wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Fred B. Northrup, Special Assistant PMA Administrator, special guest on the program, will speak from Washington on market news.

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, the "Business Side of Farming", regular Department of Agriculture feature.

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APPLE PICKERS NEEDED is the theme of a fact sheet distributed this week on the Appalachian area apple harvest in the 1946 farm Labor Program of Extension Service. The 20 million bushel apple crop in Virginia, W. Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland will require many extra pickers beginning September 1 and continuing through October. Interested workers are referred to the county agent; the fact sheet also gives State sources for information. Copies of the fact sheet, No. 1260, may be obtained from the Office of Information.

The August 1 crop report estimates a total crop of commercial apples of 111,728,000 bushels this year. This is about 8 percent less than the 1935-44 average of 120,962,000 bushels. Last year's crop was only 68,042,000 bushels. The United States and Canada reached an agreement last week that about 3,250,000 bushels would be exported to this country from Canada during the 1946-47 season. Plans were also made for the orderly distribution of the apples after a full examination of the 1946 supply and marketing prospects of the two countries. Yes, it seems we'll be eating apples again.

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SOME USDA RELEASES. . . . Cotton production this year estimated at 9,290,000 bales by Crop Reporting Board--1734; Grain exports total 942,000 tons in July--1736; Shorn wool production estimated at 298,978,000 pounds --1739; The national food situation, BAE report--1741; Inedible tallow and grease inventories still limited--1744; Chiang Kai-Shek endorses agricultural mission's objectives--1746; Canned herring, mackerel set-aside removed--1748; August 1 Crop Report--1751; USDA announces potato support--1753; USDA to buy 11 million more pounds of dried eggs for United Kingdom--1756; Philippine Government signs copra agreement with U. S.--1756; Clinton, N. C. tobacco market gets inspection and news service--1749; USDA distributing 1001 cotton exhibits on 7-point program for use in fairs and otherwise--1769; Over half the States already in school lunch program--1764; No corn yet immune to European corn borer--1667; Current developments in the farm real estate market--1773; STATE WHEAT GOALS for 1947 SET AT 71,720,000 acres, 20,000 acres above national goal suggested June 28--1778; Sugar statistics for first 6 months of 1946--1737.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Correction of OPA Release 6682 on canned and frozen vegetables (listed last week)--OPA-6682a; Maximum prices for sales of superphosphate and mixed fertilizers by fertilizer manufacturers to farmers and to dealers increased six to 11 percent--OPA-T-4868; Director of OWMR announces reorganization of OWMR to include the functions of OES and "to meet the changing needs of reconversion"--OWMR X-22-666-9; Radio talk by OPA Administrator Paul A. Porter, Aug. 10, on the new price control extension act and the fight against inflation--OPA-6686; Statement on the 1946 Congressional amendments to the Social Security Act, summaries of amendments, and table of assistance payments by States--FSA-169; Statement of Roy L. Thompson, Chairman of the three-member Price Decontrol Board, at the start of hearings on price control of grain, livestock, milk, cottonseed and soybeans--PDB No. 6; Qualifications and procedures for exempting a commodity from price control under the "new commodity" exemption provision of the Price Control Extension Act of 1946--OPA-T-4870.

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PLANS FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. . . . Congress recently authorized development of the land and water resources of the Columbia River on a large multiple-purpose scale. USDA and its State cooperating agencies in this region (Pacific Northwest) are expected to assist in developments affecting rural people and to cooperate with other agencies and groups on the entire program. The recent establishment of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee requires full participation of the Department.

A representative of the Office of the Secretary, Geo. T. Hudson, has been appointed to serve as the Department's member on this committee and on the Bonneville Advisory Board. He is otherwise directed to "facilitate the Department discharging its authorized responsibility in multiple-purpose programs in the Pacific Northwest" (Secretary's memo No. 1170). This memorandum asks that all USDA field personnel and others concerned work closely with Mr. Hudson in this development program. His headquarters will be in Wenatchee, Washington, until space is available in Portland, Ore.

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PRESENT MEMBERSHIP OF IEFC. . . . Membership of The International Emergency Food Council now consists of 24 nations--Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Siam, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, the United States, and five new members: Czechoslovakia, Finland, Italy, Republic of the Philippines, and Switzerland.

Membership on the council is open to any country through membership on any of its commodity committees. Other applications for membership are now being considered by commodity committees and applications continue to arrive, according to D. A. FitzGerald, Secretary-General of IEFC.

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